



MIHO MUSEUM

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CONNAISSANCE DES ARTS

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The Miho Museum located in the Shigaraki Mountains between Kyoto and Lake Biwa is the repository of the Shumei Family Collection, a remarkable group of objects from the Ancient World and from Japan, brought together by Mrs Mihoko Koyama and Ms Hiroko Koyama. The museum was designed by the world-renowned architect I.M. Pei in a nature preserve. This special issue of the magazine *Connaissance des Arts* offers a guided tour of the building and of highlights of the collections. It was prepared in close collaboration with the Shumei Culture Foundation, the architects and the curators of the museum.

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The story of how the Shumei Family Collection was formed, and how the Miho Museum was conceived, by Ms Hiroko Koyama, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Shumei Culture Foundation and President of Shinji Shumeikai.

PARADISE, LOST AND REGAINED 8

The approach to the Miho Museum is like a pilgrimage to another world, where the bustling streets of modern Japan are left far behind, and the visitor enters a place of calm and beauty, a place where art, architecture and nature are joined together as one. By Philip Jodidio.

THE SOUTH WING, 18 Treasures from the Ancient World

Dating from the late 3rd millennium BC to the turn of the 17th century AD, the twenty-two objects selected here are amongst the finest pieces in the Miho Museum.

THE NORTH WING, 64 Treasures from Japan

Ceramics, Buddhist art, Japanese painting and tea ceremony utensils are displayed in the North Wing of the Miho Museum.

A MUSEUM IN ITS SETTING 88

An interview with I. M. Pei, the architect of the Miho Museum, in which he describes his approach to this project. Tim Culbert, project architect for I. M. Pei, outlines the great care that went into building the museum and preserving its natural setting.

A VISIT TO MISONO 106

Though not accessible to the general public, Shinji Shumeikai's Sanctuary and Bell Tower (also designed by I. M. Pei) at Misono are visible from almost every window of the museum. The character of this very special place, where architecture and nature serve a common purpose, is related to the spirit of the Miho Museum.

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